

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An exhaust-gas purifying apparatus, comprising:  
a mantle;  
a corrugated and substantially "W"-shaped support disposed in the mantle; and  
a catalytic layer loaded on at least one of the surfaces of the support;  
wherein the support comprises at least two support elements that are in contact with and are bonded to an inner peripheral surface of the mantle, the two support elements being disposed in the axial direction of the mantle, and the two support elements neighboring in the axial direction of the mantle being disposed out of phase with each other in the peripheral direction of the mantle.
2. (Original) The exhaust-gas purifying apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the support comprise three or more support elements, and the three or more support elements are disposed out of phase with each other in the peripheral direction of the mantle.
- 3-8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The exhaust-gas purifying apparatus set forth in claim 1, the support elements being metallic.
10. (Original) The exhaust-gas purifying apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the support elements are formed of a perforated steel plate having a plurality of through holes.
11. (Original) The exhaust-gas purifying apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the mantle is an exhaust pipe.
- 12-15. (Canceled)